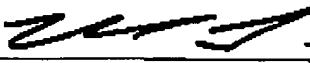


PATENT**MS150905.1****CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE**

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via facsimile to: 703-872-9306, Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

6-23-04

Date:


Himanshu S. Amin**OFFICIAL****RECEIVED
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JUN 23 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Applicant(s): Eric J. Horvitz, et al.

Examiner: Brian D. Goddard

Serial No: 09/893,827

Art Unit: 2171

Filing Date: June 28, 2001

Title: SYSTEM, REPRESENTATION, AND METHOD PROVIDING MULTILEVEL INFORMATION RETRIEVAL WITH CLARIFICATION DIALOG

**Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.131

Dear Sir:

The undersigned, the inventors of the claimed invention of the subject patent application, declare and say as follows:

We are the inventors of the claims of the above-identified patent application. This Declaration is submitted to establish reduction to practice of the invention described and claimed in the above-captioned application in the United States at a date prior to May 15, 2000, which is the effective date of Johnson, et al. (U.S. Patent 6,567,805 B1).

09/893,827

MS150905.1

To establish reduction to practice of the invention claimed in the above-identified application prior to May 15, 2000, a copy of the relevant portions of a disclosure meeting summary document dated October 10, 2000 is enclosed with this Declaration as Exhibit A. As shown in Exhibit A, the invention was reduced to practice prior to the effective date of Johnson, *et al.* Certain information, such as the actual dates and proprietary information, contained on the documents have been removed from the copy.

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued therein.

Respectfully submitted,



6/23/04

Eric J. Horvitz

Date

Exhibit A

Disclosure Meeting 10.5.00 Summary of [REDACTED] MS150905.1

1. Our Reference: [REDACTED] Microsoft Reference: MS150905.1

[REDACTED] Attendees: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Eric Horvitz (Inventor)

3. Names of Inventor(s) as Initially Defined:

Eric Horvitz
Susan Dumais

5. [REDACTED]

5b. [REDACTED]

5c. [REDACTED]

6. [REDACTED]

7. Potential U.S. Critical Dates and Activities Surrounding that Determination:

Date of Conception: Before January 2000.

Implemented : January 2000.

[REDACTED]

6. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

8. [REDACTED]